

Concern Over Dulles

Capital Wonders if Ailing Secretary May Have to Reduce His Work Load

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STATINTL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6—John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, is having bad luck with his health; and since he comes as close as possible to being the foreign policy of the United States, the Administration is naturally concerned.

The facts are not so alarming as some reports circulating in the capital imply. He contracted a virus infection shortly after noon on Sunday. This was the immediate reason for canceling his trip to Ottawa.

More important, he has not recovered completely from the after-effects of an attack of diverticulitis—inflammation of the colon—despite a two weeks' holiday in Jamaica. This attack put him in Walter Reed Hospital last month.

There is, however, no recurrence of the cancer that necessitated a major operation two years ago. Both his brother, Allen W. Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and his sister, Eleanor Dulles, head of the Berlin desk at the State Department, have been assured on this point.

Nevertheless, he is troubled that he has not been able to work eighteen hours a day at his job recently, and while this may not be a reasonable expectation in a man of 70, it is a problem, because he has organized the State Department in such a way that he almost has to work eighteen hours a day to make his particular system work.

Adviser, Negotiator, Witness

He is not only the principal adviser to the President on foreign affairs, but the chief foreign policy negotiator, speech writer, and witness on Capitol Hill. If his doctors had had their way, he would not have agreed to go to Paris for the North Atlantic Treaty talks last month, or to Ottawa for the economic talks this week, or to Pakistan for the Baghdad Pact meetings later this month. But he committed himself anyway.

He is up every morning before 7 memorizing the latest Soviet insults in the morning papers. He gets to the State Department before the place is properly swept out. He has, in Christian A. Herter, C. Douglas Dillon, Robert Murphy and Livingston Merchant, four experienced and competent deputies, but he keeps a hand in everything, and it almost takes a Presidential proclamation to keep him off the telephone even when he is in the hospital.

This system of formulating everything, negotiating everything, and writing everything on his big yellow pad is apparently necessary to his own inner compulsions, whatever they are, but it leads him to work when he should be taking it easy and it creates an odd and unbalanced system in the top direction of the nation's foreign policy.

For the President is often not working on foreign policy when he should be, and Mr. Dulles is often working on it when he shouldn't be. And this naturally raises the question of what is to be done if the Secretary, as now seems likely, must begin to conserve his energies.

Either his working system must be changed or his physical system will be put in jeopardy. A Democratic Congress is just beginning what promises to be one long investigation of foreign policy questions that will probably last from now until the 1960 election. This will be no rest cure for the Secretary.

Also, it is already clear from the visit of the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, Anastas I. Mikoyan, that the Communists are on the verge of another lively period of negotiation in an effort to block that nuclear rearmament of West Germany, and, if possible, to demilitarize, neutralize, and federate the whole of that country.

Mr. Mikoyan is already talking about the possibility of a foreign ministers' meeting on a variety of topics or a summit

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